

FROM:
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CODE ENFORCEMENT POLICY #5-8

September 28, 2004

TO: All Inspection Staff

FROM: Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshal

RE: **EXTERIOR EXIT STAIRWAYS/FIRE ESCAPE STAIRWAYS**

CODE REFERENCE: 2003 Minnesota State Fire Code Appendix 1005.3.6, Sections 2b and 2d
2003 Minnesota State Building Code Section 1005.3.6

THIS POLICY IS TO SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR YOUR ENFORCEMENT. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE FIRE MARSHAL THROUGH YOUR SUPERVISOR.

EXTERIOR EXIT STAIRWAYS

When an exterior exit stairway is installed (see Policy 5-7 for required exits), it must be constructed under permit from DSI Building Inspections and all current building code requirements must be met. All openings in the exterior wall below and within 10 feet horizontally must be protected by 2 3/4 hour fire assembly. See MSBC Section 1005.3.6 for other existing stairways requirements.

Existing exterior exit stairways do not have to meet current building code requirements retro-actively if they were built in accordance with previous codes in effect when constructed and they are not hazardous. Openings below and within 10 feet horizontally, therefore, do not have to be protected.

FIRE ESCAPE STAIRWAYS

Existing fire escapes (18" minimum width, 60 degree grade, 4" tread, 10" rise) with one top and one intermediate handrail, will be required to have openings protected. Openings within 10 feet shall be protected by 2 3/4 hour fire assembly.

NOTE: In existing buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system, all openings within 5 feet of a fire escape stairway shall be protected as indicated above.

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